

Unapproved

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

A special meeting of the Cumberland School Committee was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cumberland High School Auditorium, 2600 Mendon Road, Cumberland, Rhode Island

Agenda Item #1: Chairman Convenes Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Donald Costa at 7:08 p.m.

**Members Present: Jeff Mutter, Dan Pedro, Brian Kelly, Earl Wood, Donald Costa, Ryan Pearson,
Lisa Beaulieu**

Staff Present: Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D., Superintendent, Joseph A. Rotella, Esq., Director of Administration, Alex Prignano, Business Manager

Agenda Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Agenda

**Motion to approve agenda by Mr. Wood, second by Ms. Beaulieu.
Approved 7-0.**

Agenda Item #4: Discussion on Elementary School Design Proposal

Dr. Morelle reviewed the Elementary School Design Proposal for members of the viewing audience that may not be familiar with it. The initial proposal was brought forward in February and then Dr. Morelle's staff updated the plan in April. One of the major concerns is getting a revised transportation policy from the transportation vendor – this would include bell time schedule and route studies. The vendor will begin with the current configuration that we have and work from there – this is in process and has not been completed yet. School Committee is looking for ongoing enrollment data. Mrs. Beaulieu recommended that we enlist an enrollment management services firm to do a study for us on long-term enrollment to determine if either of the proposals would meet our needs for the future. Also, relocation plans need to be looked at as well as renovations on any of the schools. These are all concerns. One renovation that has been identified already would be to upgrade the playground at the Ashton School.

We have followed up with the University of Connecticut, regarding higher learners, and we have made a substantial contact and we hope it will be a good resource for us as we move forward.

Dr. Morelle feels as though we are at a drop dead date right now with this proposal being implemented for the 2010-2011 school year – she thought that placing the children at this point would be very difficult – she has met with with faculty regarding this issue and at this time she feels as though she needs to withdraw the proposal for this

timeframe and delay it until 2011.

Dr. Morelle recommended that we engage the services of New England School Development Council – they already have our demographic data and could review all the information for this proposal.

Mr. Kelly agreed with postponing until 2011 – better to wait for new plan and look at redistricting.

Dr. Morelle reminded all to keep it separate from budget issues. Timeline should be no later than December, 2010-sooner if possible. New England School Development Council could have a plan back to us within 90 days.

Earl Wood suggested that redistricting be completed by November – it is an election year. He doesn't want it postponed. He did suggest that the numbers are already there for redistricting and does not want to pay NESDEC \$15,000 for something they already know and have.

Mr. Pearson would like a quote from NESDEC.

Mr. Mutter asked why this was started three days before the budget was to get passed.

Mr. Costa suggested that we do it right and form a sub committee to do this – prior to December – he wants maps from Durham.

Dr. Morelle recommended the outside group. She believes they have no issues with what is going on in town and they will sit down and talk to us about the recommendations and thinks that NESDEC will bring us closer to a decision.

Mr. Costa recommended further review – recommends delay until 2011 – recommends a sub committee – further discussion next

Thursday.

Agenda Item # 5: Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Morelle would like the School Committee to rescind the action taken on January 28, 2010 to accept the resignation of Dr. Susan Carney – Asst. Superintendent – and amend the terms of her contractual agreement through June 2011 to .6 FTE subject to the addendum to the contract being put forth to the School Committee at the next meeting. Motion by Mr. Kelly, second by Ms. Beaulieu – 5-2 approved.

Mr. Pearson wants the contract in front of him.

Mr. Kelly – motion is contingent – contract to be brought to next Thursdays meeting for full committee approval.

Mr. Mutter agrees with Mr. Pearson – wants the contract in front of him.

Dr. Morelle will update the contract for next weeks meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Discussion and/or Vote on FY 2010 Budget

Mr. Prignano reviewed the budget as of the end of March – everyone had a copy in front of them.

The report reflects \$1,517,000 shortfall – this includes the potential \$1,100,000 state aide reduction – has not been passed by the General Assembly yet.

Mr. Wood was concerned with custodian overtime – he will talk to Mr. Hilton about this in a sub committee meeting.

Mr. Rotella explained to the committee about “floaters” throughout

the district to help alleviate custodial overtime, but language in the contract sometimes prohibits the use of a floater and therefore a replacement is used and the overtime goes up. He did offer a spreadsheet by school to show the figures.

Mr. Costa asked about discretionary spending.

Dr. Morelle said there is a freeze in place on discretionary spending – monitor spending very closely.

Mr. Mutter asked about material & supplies line item - \$32,000 – wants an explanation.

Dr. Morelle said Dr. Carney will review the figures and get back to him.

Mr. Mutter wanted answer the next day and Dr. Morelle explained that Dr. Carney was out sick, but Alex Prignano will get the answer for Mr. Mutter.

Ms. Beaulieu would like a three year trend analysis on custodial overtime.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion and/or Vote on FY 2011 Budget

Dr. Morelle reviewed the 2011 line items and focused on line item #4 – unidentified savings of \$498,519.

Dr. Morelle stated that the budget has been scrutinized and that they have tried to spare classroom instruction and have tried to minimize the impact on staffing.

Dr. Morelle would like to bring back an English teacher – due to a \$64,800 error – coded twice on budget and later discovered – the money is available to bring this teacher back.

Mr. Prignano stated that based on historical data, we had spend \$593,000 on subs, but due to a policy change he thinks that number will be closer to \$525,000 – savings of \$75,000.

Mr. Costa, Mr. Mutter Mr. Prignano, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Morelle – went back and forth regarding the \$64,800 budget error – a line item being coded twice – which budget this was on and which budget had the corrected number – should there be strike throughs on the budgets when they get updated, etc.

Dr. Morelle stated that the budgets are proposed then amended – this is comparable to a strikethrough. There is an adjusted column.

Dr. Morelle stated that we did not move off the line item to purchase the core reading curriculum – it is going forward – it will be financed over five years.

Mr. Kelly stated the Prep School would like to double their kindergarten class – thinks we will see a hole in our budget if this happens.

Mr. Pearson asked about the Science Coordinator – Dr. Morelle said this was an additional stipend and Dr. Carney did not think it was necessary.

Mr. Wood asked what the bottom line number was right now and Mr. Prignano answered \$,1,061,000 designated and \$1,300,000 undesignated.

Ms. Beaulieu had a question about Assessment Software – for just students requiring intervention or all students. Dr. Morelle answered that a Progress Monitoring System is used for all students. It would be used for the entire high school.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to reduce the unidentified savings in the amount of \$340,033, second by Mr. Mutter – approved 7-0.

Mr. Prignano review revenues, textbooks, miscellaneous.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve unidentified savings in revenues of \$127,000, second by Ms. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Mr. Prignano discussed the retirement incentives in detail.

Mr. Mutter made a motion to approve the \$528,516 retirement incentive, second by Mr. Pearson, approved 7-0.

Mr. Pearson withdrew his motion to approve the amended budget- is not comfortable sending this to the Mayor and Town Council.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to approve the amended budget of \$51,509,051 and if approved by the committee, needs to be transmitted to the Mayor and Town Council, second by Ms. Beaulieu, approved 5-2.

Agenda Item #8: Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #9: Vote to go into Executive Session for Discussion on Items Referred to in RIGL 42-46-5:

A. Personnel Matters – Exception (1)CTA/ICSE

B. Negotiations/Litigation – Exception (2) CTA/ICSE, Litigation

Mr. Pearson made a motion to enter into Executive Session for items referred to in RIGL 42-46-5, personnel matters, negotiations/litigation, second by Mr. Kelly, approved 7-0.

Motion to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Kelly, second by Ms. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Pedro, second by Ms. Beaulieu, approved 7-0.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Linda A. Jackvony